

# The Titusville Communicator



Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

WWW.K4KSC.COM

"Dedicated to the Promotion and Preservation of Amateur Radio in Central Florida, Across the United States, Around the Globe, and Throughout the Universe"

## TARC FEB SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

January was a busy, busy month, but WOW did it fly by!

As promised in the January issue, my retirement did happen on schedule and I am no longer a full-time working stiff as of February 29th (Leap Day) and I have officially "Leapt"!

My hope (and prayer) is that I will have add'l time to devote to the hobbies that have been sidelined for the last 47 years, but there is no promise of that. I'll just do my best, as I always do. One thing I wanted to share is that I spent a very nice

day with our past President, and club founders, Jan & Sherry Ferguson and caught up with them and all their adventures. It was really good to spend some time with them. They are well and enjoying life.

Earlier this month, we had a small team of intrepid hams mount an assault on the high peaks of "Titusville Towers" where are 146.970 repeater is based, and found it in good operational order. Power output, and SWR all good, and the unit operating as designed. A few things need done to make it 100%, like new coax and

some hardware maintenance, but overall ~ it's in good shape and ready to support local Hams.

Upcoming is our Mosquito Net Tailgate Party! Check this issue for a full detailed description of everything happening at this epic 33rd Anniversary Tailgate Party!

Looking forward to seeing you Tuesday at 7 PM at our Monthly Meeting! 19 N. Washington Ave in Titusville.

73

*Paul*

## Meet the Vice-President, Mike Elledge - KC4JEM

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

I've had the chance to work together with Mike over the past few years on various projects, and he's been very helpful, dedicated, and a competent and enthusiastic member of our club. It's been fun getting to know him and his wife Sandy-Lynn. Here are some of the things he shared with me:

"Born in California. First exposure to radio was a Radio Shack DX-160 shortwave receiver that I was given by a neighbor in the 60's. My family travelled around the country a lot (dad was a union electrician who worked power plant and oil

refinery construction). Loved to put up a long wire antenna and listen to all the shortwave stations that were around back in the 60's and 70's. Enlisted in the U.S. Navy 73-79 as an electronics technician.

Went to work for Martin Marietta in 79 and worked on various programs (Hellfire, Copperhead and Patriot missiles) until I retired in 1999. In 1990 got my technician license as KC4JEM. Let it expire in 2000 and did not get back into ham radio until the pandemic. Studied and got a new license and applied for a vanity call and got my original KC4JEM license back.

Studied and got my General and then my Extra class license in December 2023.

Interested in HAM radio and Model Trains and 3D design and printing."

Hope you enjoyed learning a little bit more about Mike and his background. I look forward to working together this year to continue to make TARC stronger and more fun to participate in.

Volume I, Issue 2

February 2024

### What's Happening:

- TARC FEB SITREP
- Mosquito Net Tailgate Party
- Repeater Status and Upgrades

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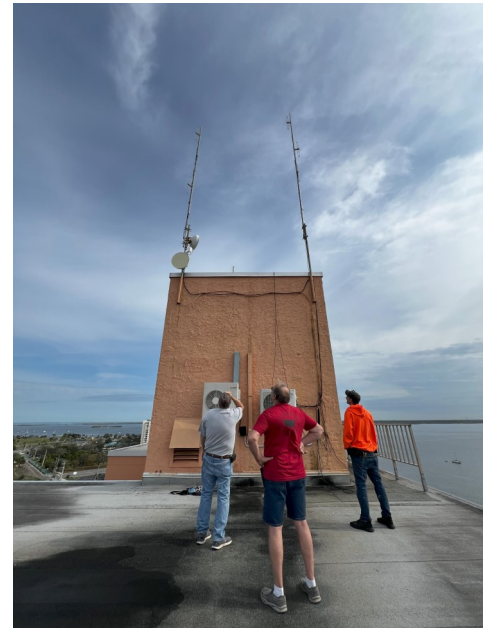
## What's up with the TARC Repeaters

As I quickly mentioned on Page 1 of the newsletter, there was a trip recently made up to the top of Titusville Towers, the senior assisted living facility downtown, which holds our 146.970 repeater.

It's a Bridgecom BCR-50V repeater which is powered by the building's AC power. The facility has a generator backup that will restore power if it loses the commercial feed. If that happens, there will be a momentary loss, but the repeater will reboot into operational mode. At the present time, there is no independent battery backup on this repeater.

There are also a set of duplexer "cans"

which are RF "notch" filters. The primary purpose of a duplexer is to keep the transmitter output from bleeding directly into the receiver input, since they both operate simultaneously through a common antenna on frequencies which are relatively closely spaced. These were inspected and verified operational. Barry Kennedy and Dave McLean used their RF analyzers and watt meters to verify the repeater was in good shape and operating efficiently. A general inspection of all cables, hardware, connections and building transitions were accomplished. Coax could stand a refresh, but otherwise, everything is in great shape!



## The Denman Road Repeater is going "Green"

The 146.775 repeater on Denman Road in North Mims has been an ongoing project for the past 3-4 months. AC power was no longer available from its previous source, so alternatives have been worked ~ but more roadblocks have appeared which make reliable and affordable power difficult. So, discussions between the TARC board members and our ad hoc technical advisory committee have resulted in a decision to shift to primary Solar power with a de-humidifier in the building instead of an AC unit. The next steps being taken are to design and evaluate

a solar system with batteries that will provide sufficient power availability for reliable and robust use of our North County repeater. Initial indications are that this is a technically feasible and practically sound path, and design work is underway for a proposed configuration. We will present the off-grid proposal to our membership as soon as practical, we want to get the repeater up and fully functional for our communities use.

Thanks to all for the continued support and assistance with keeping our club's capabilities strong!



## What's the Topic of Discussion / Presentation for Next Meeting?

Tom Fuller—KN4GLO is going to do a brief presentation/demonstration of Remote HF work. As you'll remember, he's actually run the 10 Meter "Mosquito Net" from his laptop while in another state!

He's going to fill us all in on how he was able to accomplish this and show us how

we might benefit from this configuration.

Looking forward to it!



# General Items of Interest

**Local TARC News Headlines:**

**Repeater Status:**

CALL	FREQ	ZONE	PWR	LOCATION	STATUS
K4KSC	146.910	107.2	80 W	Titusville	Operational
K4KSC	146.970	107.2	80 W	Titusville	Operational—Checkout accomplished Feb 16th .
K4KSC	146.775	100.0	80 W	N. Mims	On Solar Only

**Trailer Status:**

There was a great deal of computing power upgrade added to the TARC Trailer prior to/during Winter Field Day activities! There are TWO brand new computer systems donated by members that are up and operational using Windows 11 operating system, and they are networked together using a new Ethernet LAN switch which was donated and setup by Marty—KJ4LQX. All set up for computer logging and contesting! A training session will be held for all interested parties.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Mosquito Net Tailgate Party Saturday March 23rd 2024 7 AM—2:30 PM**

**Fox Lake Park, Titusville, Florida**

Gates to the park open at 7 AM Local

Ends 18:59 UTC (1:59 PM Local) Sunday January 28th

This is our own little version of a Hamfest—done TARC style. 33rd Anniversary of the Mosquito Net!

- Come and visit with your Ham friends!
- Come and sell some of your treasures!
- Come and buy somebody else’s treasures!
- Come and enjoy some good food!
- Come and WIN prizes at the HOURLY Raffle! BIG prizes! THOUSANDS of Dollars worth!

**Hams Helping Hams:**

We’ve had some of our members ask for assistance in putting up, taking down, and repairing antennas and feedlines. If you would specifically like to make a request for assistance, please notify our club leadership and we’ll try to help arrange for that assistance. If you know of anyone needing help, please bring it to the leadership and we’ll help make it happen.

If you are willing to help out, let the TARC leadership know also! We’ll need to get these folks together.

**Items Needed for the Club:**

We will be in need of some equipment/planning/building for a reliable and robust means to provide +12VDC to the Denman Road Repeater Site. Several configurations are being discussed. Please contact the Technical Committee which is being formally organized this month. If you are willing and able to donate time, energy, knowledge, equipment and/or cash ~ your participation will be greatly appreciated!

**Secretary** – See attached January Meeting Minutes Below



*Titusville Amateur Radio Club*

**President**

Paul Fee—N6PDF  
(321) 264-8985 Cell/TXT  
paul.n6pdf@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Michael Elledge—KC4JEM  
elledge54@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Stephanie Merritt—K4MVO  
spmerrittflorida@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**

Sally Fuller—KN4HPX  
sful1974@gmail.com

Titusville Amateur Radio Club  
January, 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00 pm, by President Paul Fee, N6PDF, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**President's Welcome:** Paul, N6PDF, announced that he will be soon retiring from his job. (2/29/2024) and will have more time to share with TARC. He mentioned that he has heard many great ideas from members about how our club could be moving forward; such as, adding activities, and changing a few other ways we have been doing things. He reminded us that our club is only as successful as those who participate.

**Membership Introductions:** Members in attendance introduced themselves. June Stadnik, KQ4JSF, has upgraded to Amateur Extra; and Don Stadnik, KQ4LJJ, has upgraded to General; and Chuck Cole, K4TZO, announced that he has surpassed 60 years as a Ham.

**Visitors:** Longtime TARC member and significant contributor Kenny Denman, KD4HNW, is visiting from Alabama.

**Guest Speaker/Program:** Vice President, Mike Elledge, KC4JEM, discussed the "Ideas and Suggestions" sign-up sheets and why he wanted input from members. The December 2023 meeting was the Christmas Dinner at Dixie Crossroads Restaurant and no minutes were taken.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved Unanimously. Meeting minutes N/A from December meeting.

**Guest Speaker/Program:** Vice President, Mike Elledge, KC4JEM, discussed the "Ideas and Suggestions" sign-up sheets and why he wanted input from members. There was a lot of discussion and lots of suggestions from TARC members.

**Old Business:**

146.775 Repeater Power: this was one of the topics at the last Board of Director's meetings, and we are still working on problem. Solar not the answer for the Air Conditioner, but 'OK' for just the radio.



## **(January Meeting Minutes Continued)**

**Current Nets and Activity:** Barry, N4NMF, spoke of TARC's Nets and participation, and encouraged all members to check-in.

### **New Business:**

TARC Social Media Footprint: Members discussed the need for TARC members to actively manage our 'Social Media' footprint for improved TARC branding, and to encourage new membership.

**New Members:** Michael Daniels - KW4DX, Steven Schindler—NA4SA, Adam Morris—KQ4OYN ~ Welcome!

Marty, KJ4LQX, is now working on our new and improved website. Doing a great job!

**Annual Mosquito Net Anniversary Tailgate at Fox Lake Park:** To be held on March 23, 2024, starting at 7:00 am - Going until 2:30 PM. Being shared on Social Media and Website.

Discussion about how to keep vendors on-site until after lunch. Mike, KC4JEM, Suggested we have a Raffle to be held at 2:30pm. Stephanie, K4MVO, offered a prize provided by the AA4HP Radio sport Club, Inc..

There was a Question about whether there would be a testing session.  
(I don't have an answer?)

Stephanie, K4MVO, offered to hand out flyers at the upcoming HamCation in Orlando.

It was suggested we have TARC volunteers on-site to help set up and break down, and to greet newcomers and the public. Hours: 7 am, to 3 pm.

**Repeater Mapping:** Keith, KN4AQJ, mentioned a desire for Mapping our TARC Repeaters.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:09 pm. Followed by a Social Hour, and members drifted out was past 9pm. What a great meeting!

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary  
Stephanie Phillips, K4MVO